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Past Military Control of the Tungan Area

1. In September 1945 the local populace of the Tungan - Mishan area organized a Peace Preservation Corps for the preservation of law and order and for defense against Communists and bandits. The total strength of this unit was about 700, the majority of whom were poorly equipped. The first Communist troops to enter Mishan were local irregulars who took the town in April 1946 after the Peace Preservation Corps retreated to the mountains to wage guerrilla warfare. The Peace Preservation Corps returned and, with the aid of the local populace, recaptured the town. However, in May 1946, regular Communist troops from China proper came and completely dispersed this anti-Communist Peace Preservation Corps. During the past few months, small groups of these men have been going to other areas to join larger Nationalist underground units, but locally the Communists are in complete control. There is no organized resistance, and the only known example of sabotage against the Communists occurred at Mutanchiang on 4 November when a railroad car loaded with gasoline was set on fire. It is believed that the military events above mentioned are typical of those which occurred in other small and underpopulated districts in eastern Manchuria.
2. It is estimated that there are less than 2000 regular Communist troops in the entire Tungan area headquarters. There are about 150 additional local troops in the area, but these forces are poorly equipped, and desertions are frequent. On 20 October irregular Communist troops passed through Mishan from Hulin (133-38, 45-59) to an unknown destination. Two or three train loads of Communist regulars were being moved in the direction of Changchun per night.

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3. Even among the regular troops of the Communist Army, irregularity in uniforms is widespread. The basic uniform is greenish-yellow, and all types of leggings are worn with it. Most of the troops wear fur caps in the northern districts at present, and a few have Japanese army helmets. Troops in the northern districts wear Manchurian hay-stuffed overcoats (Mukmuk) because of the cold. Some wore complete Japanese uniforms, but usually some had Japanese tunics, others Japanese trousers and leggings, and others Japanese overcoats. Several Communist officers wore a full Soviet uniform, but these were limited to one or two men to each regiment, usually the Commanding Officer and his Executive Officer. The local people believe that these officers may be Chinese who were trained in the USSR and have rank in the Soviet Army. (Mr. CHEN ~~REDACTED~~ of the Manchurian Provincial Association added that many members of KANG Xin-kuei's ~~REDACTED~~ Third Anti-Japanese Guerrilla Army, after their defeat by the Japanese, escaped to the USSR. Many were converted to Communism and about 40% were fully equipped and sent back as leaders, one or two to every district and three or four to every municipality.) The officers of the regular army and the local irregulars do not wear insignia of rank, but officers are recognizable because they have outside patch-pockets, whereas the enlisted men have slit pockets in their tunics. In addition, many of the enlisted men carry sidearms as well as rifles, but the officers carry only sidearms. All officers and men wear a patch on the upper part of the left arm which identifies them as "Northeast Democratic Combined Army". There are no unit or army patch insignias, and troops of both the 8 Route Army and the New 4 Army and irregulars have been seen wearing the same patch. The majority of the troops in the regular army have greenish-yellow overcoats with cotton-wool padding and white linings.
4. At present factories at Tung'an, and some in other places, are manufacturing overcoats. Most of the officers have overcoats that formerly belonged to the Japanese Army. In Hulin a few irregular Communist troops have parts of Soviet uniforms believed given to them when the Soviet occupation forces withdrew. However, none of these "half uniforms" were observed elsewhere.

Ordnance and Supply

5. The regular Communist troops seen in Mutanchiang between 2 and 5 November were equipped with Japanese model 38 rifles, one per man, a full shoulder-to-wrist strip of ammunition (estimated about seventy rounds), and usually two or three hand grenades apiece. To every 100 men there were two or three light machine guns of Japanese make. There were approximately two howitzers, about four inches in calibre, per battalion. Also, about fifteen close range guns which were used by the Japanese as anti-tank guns were seen. The calibre of these guns was about two and one-half inches. Also several Japanese-type four inch field guns.
6. Most of the irregulars in the Hulin area were equipped with model 28 rifles, but about one-sixth of them had Puppet Army model 44 rifles, and a few had the very old, inside barrel type rifles. There were only one or two Japanese-made light machine guns among these troops, but there were five or six with a circular drum magazine on top; these were described as the same type the Soviets had used. It is stated that several of these light machine guns were given to local Communist irregular forces when the Soviets left.
7. Several train loads of grain going east from the Mutanchiang area were seen. The Communists have repair shops at Mutanchiang and other places for weapons and motorized equipment. Some Communist troops said that they had to save the brass casings from all shells, because a factory at Hanchiang makes new shells from these. It was believed that the Communist army was short of ammunition of all types, and that they were making their own, but this was described as being inferior quality.

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8. At Tungan there is a factory for the repair of old Japanese airplanes and tanks. More than 400 Japanese and about an equal number of Chinese work in the factory, with the former constituting the main skilled labor. The Japanese were brought in by train with their families and forced to work. They are supposed to receive over 300 yen apiece each month, with extra grain for those with families. Three Japanese planes and six tanks are known to have been repaired there and put into operation; about fifteen more tanks and several planes are believed to have been conditioned there. These planes, seen from a distance of a quarter of a mile, appeared to be single-motored, and were thought to be ex-Japanese zeros. No armament was visible on them. Their pilots are Japanese, but it is not known whether or not they are serving voluntarily. [REDACTED] Note: Approximately the same information has been reported independently with the additional information that the leader of the Japanese pilots is a Major HAYASHI 林 and that these pilots voluntarily joined the Communists in June 1946. Several of them have since moved to Mutanchiang.) Three fighter planes were seen at Harbin and three at Mutanchiang.

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9. Military Hospitals

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In July 1946 there were approximately 5,000 wounded Communist troops recuperating at a rest hospital at Tungan. [REDACTED] Note: Mr. CHEN of the Nenchiang Provincial Association indicated that at present the main centers for wounded troops are Nenchiang (Mergen) (125-13, 49-11), Mutanchiang, and Chiamussu (130-21, 46-49), whereas formerly the centers were Harbin and Tsitsihar (123-57, 47-22).

Training

10. The few regular troops in the Mishan area are drilled every day from 0300 to 0500. There is no training after daybreak. This is also true of several companies of regular Communist troops seen at Mutanchiang. Most regular Communist troops, especially those who came from China proper (Note: Mainly North China) are well-equipped and well-trained for battle. The morale of such troops is very high as contrasted with that of the local irregular Communist troops, who very frequently desert.
11. There are two training schools at Tungan, one a flying and aero-mechanics school with Japanese teachers, and the other an artillery school with Chinese teachers. There are approximately 100 soldiers enrolled in each. There is also a Women's Political Party School at Tungan with an enrollment of approximately 300. It is thought that in addition to the teaching of Communist principles, this school is responsible for the training of women agents for use in underground and espionage activities in Nationalist areas.
12. There has been no recruiting, but the reason for this is the intense undercurrent of anti-Communist feeling in the Mishan district. Some recruitment of local inhabitants for the Communist army has been reported at Chiamussu. Persons living in the Tungan area were recruited in August and September, but because a large number of them deserted, there has been no further draft.

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